United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1258
29 October 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, at first meeting on Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace" report, announces it will meet once a month on that report; to first consider proposals for States to provide forces to United Nations peace-keeping and need to augment staff dealing with peace-keeping matters.

+ Two senior United Nations officials dispatched to El Salvador to discuss with parties and Secretary-General's Special Representative expeditious completion of peace process in that country.

+ Warn-torn situation in former Yugoslavia requires emergency action by international community, says Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights.

+ Joint talks between leaders of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities continue at Headquarters.

+ General Assembly elects 18 States to fill vacancies in Economic and Social Council as of 1 January.

+ Yugoslav Army withdrawn from Croatia; United Nations military observers patrolling Prevlaka Peninsula, according to Secretary-General.

+ Land and air deliveries organized by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees bring aid supplies into Sarajevo, in effort to build relief stocks before winter sets in.

+ General Assembly calls for strengthened cooperation between United Nations and Organization of American States, League of Arab States, and Latin American Economic System.

+ Armando Duque to head Office of Human Resources Management and serve as Security Director, replacing Abdou Ciss, who is to be Assistant President in General Affairs Department of International Fund for Agriculture.

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The Security Council has decided to meet at least once a month on the Secretary-General's report, "An Agenda for Peace", in order to arrive at conclusions which will be considered during a special meeting of the Council no later than next spring. The decision was read out this morning by Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée (France), at a formal meeting which marked the beginning of the Council's examination of the Secretary-General's report.

In his statement, Mr. Merimée said the Council had decided to first consider the Secretary-General's proposal to encourage Member States to inform him of their willingness to provide forces or capabilities to the United Nations for peace-keeping operations. The Council also shared the Secretary-General's view of a need to increase the strength and capability of military staff serving in the Secretariat and of staff dealing with peace-keeping matters more generally. It invited the Secretary-General to create in the Secretariat an enhanced peace-keeping military planning staff and an operations centre to deal with the greater complexity in the field of peace-keeping operations.

Other proposals to be examined by the Council concern the role of the regional organizations and increased use of the United Nations of fact-finding missions. The Council said it would also continue its discussion of the special economic problems which may confront third States when sanctions are imposed on a State.

The Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace" report, which contains a number of proposals on the capacity of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping, was prepared in response to a request by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council held in New York at the end of January.

The Council held consultations this afternoon on the situation in Angola, El Salvador and Tajikistan.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali dispatched today two senior United Nations officials to El Salvador to discuss with the parties and his Special Representative the expeditious completion of the peace process in that country.

In a statement issued last night, the Secretary-General said he had asked Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and Assistant Secretary-General Alvaro de Soto to go to San Salvador for meetings with the Salvadoran Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) regarding his recent proposal to speed up the implementation of the Peace

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Agreements on El Salvador. The move follows commitments by FMLN to accept his proposal, and by President Alfredo Cristiani that the Government would continue to implement its obligations under the Agreements.

According to last night's statement, the Government of El Salvador has begun the transfer of lands to ex-combatants of the FMLN. The FMLN, for its part, has begun the demilitarization of one third of its remaining combatants. The Secretary-General's Special Representative for El Salvador, Iqbal Riza, will participate in the talks to complete the peace process which is being verified by the United Nations Observer Mission in that country (ONUSAL).

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The war-torn situation in the former Yugoslavia required emergency action by the international community, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, has said in a report issued following his second mission to former Yugoslavia from 12 to 22 October 1992.

The report, which was submitted to the Economic and Social Council on 27 October, stressed that safe heavens abroad must be found for those whose lives are in acute danger. In addition, in order to ensure that providing refuge would not contribute to the policy of 'ethnic cleansing', it was essential to reaffirm and provide lasting protection for the right to return. Mr. Mazowiecki once again appealed to Governments to take urgent steps and to international public opinion to support these efforts.

The report also underlined that a large number of displaced persons would not have to seek refuge abroad if their security could be guaranteed and if they could be provided with both sufficient food supplies and adequate medical care. The concept of security zones within the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be actively pursued for that purpose.

The Rapporteur called for an increase in humanitarian assistance to all persons in the affected areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina and urged Governments to provide the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with additional support. He also called the current situation in Kosovo "dangerous", with evidence of discriminatory measures taken by the local authorities against ethnic Albanians.
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Joint talks between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities continued at Headquarters today. The talks, which were initiated by the Secretary-General in August, began yesterday.

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After four rounds of balloting, the General Assembly last night elected the following 18 States to fill vacancies on the 54-member Economic and Social

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Council: Bahamas, Bhutan, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Gabon, Libya, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Zaire. The new members will serve three-year terms beginning on 1 January 1993.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a letter dated 21 October, has informed the Security Council that the Yugoslav Army had withdrawn from Croatia. The last remaining units of the Army completed their withdrawal from the Prevlaka Peninsula on 20 October 1992, and the United Nations military observers, in cooperation with the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM), were patrolling the area.

"With the final departure of the Yugoslav Army from Croatian soil, a crucial element in the United Nations peace-keeping plan approved by the Security Council has been fulfilled," the Secretary-General said. Document S/24710

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In an effort to build up relief supplies in Sarajevo before winter closes in, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stepped up land and air deliveries to the city this week. Four trucks carrying 36 metric tons of food aid reached Sarajevo yesterday and another convoy of 19 trucks, which set out from Belgrade yesterday, was expected to arrive in the Bosnian capital today. UNHCR also reported that an average of 16 relief flights a day had been landing at Sarajevo airport all this week.

The UNHCR also reported today that consignments of food aid were being delivered to Pale, and to Vitez, which had not received relief supplies since 18 October, when fighting erupted in the area.

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The General Assembly this morning called for strenghtened cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), the League of Arab States and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). It took that action by adopting three resolutions, one concerning each organization.

Under its resolutions, the Assembly recommended that a general meeting between the United Nations and OAS be held in 1993, with a view to signing an agreement of cooperation. It requested the Secretary-General to continue cooperation with the League of Arab States for the purpose of implementing United Nations resolutions relating to the Question of Palestine and to the situation in the Middle East. The Assembly also urged broader cooperation between SELA and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations specialized agencies.

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Armando Duque has been appointed to head the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM), and to serve as Security Coordinator, exercising the Secretary-General's authority relating to the security of United Nations staff worldwide, the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills, said today. Mr. Duque will be replacing Abdou Ciss, who is taking the post of Assistant President in the General Affairs Department of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome.

The Spokesman pointed out that security at Headquarters in New York remains the responsibility of the Security Chief Richard Ward and the Security and Safety Service.

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